



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### 2005 Farm Computer Usage and Ownership Washington Farms Internet Access is Up Twelve Percent

Computer usage is on the rise in Washington with 70 percent of farms in the state having computer access. Oregon and Idaho have 80 percent and 77 percent farm computer access respectively, compared with the national farm computer access at only 58 percent.

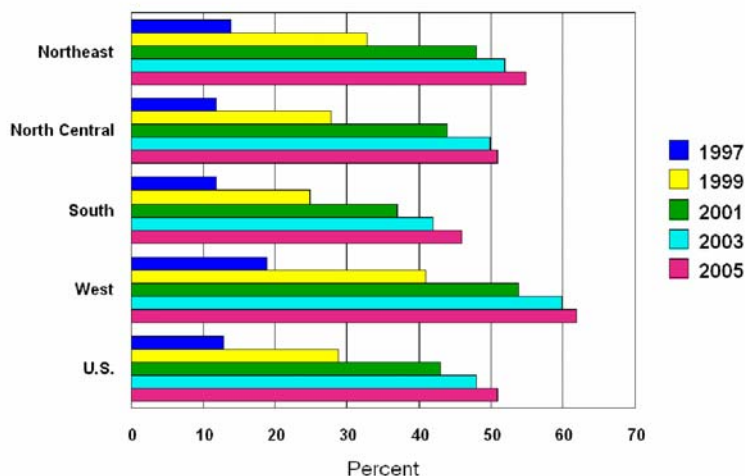
Sixty-six percent of Washington farms now have Internet access compared to 51 percent nationwide. Both Oregon and Idaho farms have 68 percent access to the Internet. Thirty-seven percent of farms in Washington used computers for their business in 2005, compared to 39 percent in 2003. The percent of Idaho farms using computers for their business was 47 percent in 2005, slightly higher than the 46 percent in 2003. Oregon farms using computers for business went from 49 percent in 2003 to 42 percent in 2005. Nationwide use of computers for farm business averaged 31 percent in 2005 which was slightly higher than the 30 percent in 2003.

**Farm Numbers:** For those data users looking to equate these published percentages to actual farm counts, we have included a table showing “Number of Farms: by State and United States” from the January 2005 NASS publication “Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations”. A farm is “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year”.

Farms in the Pacific Northwest for 2004 were 35,000 for Washington, 25,000 for Idaho, and 40,000 for Oregon. The total number of farms in the United States was 2,107,350 in 2004, a 6 percent decrease from 2003.

Two new questions were asked in 2005, including how operators access the Internet. Dialup was the most common method of accessing the Internet with 77 percent of Washington farms, 67 percent of Oregon farms, and 73 percent of Idaho farms. Operators were also asked if they conducted any non-agricultural business via the Internet in the last 12 months and 41 percent of the farms in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho responded ‘yes’, compared to 26 percent nationwide.

**Percent of Farms with Internet Access  
By Region & U.S., 1997-2005**



Farm Computer Usage:  
By State and United States, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005

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	:	Farms									
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State	:	With				:	That Own				
	:	Computer				:	or Lease				
	:	Access				:	Computers				
	-----										
	:	1997	:	1999	:	2001	:	2003	:	2005	
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	:	Percent									
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ID	:	48	75	80	81	77	36	59	74	77	75
OR	:	61	65	75	78	80	52	55	73	76	78
WA	:	58	61	59	65	70	50	52	56	57	67
US 1/	:	38	47	55	58	58	31	40	50	54	55
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1/ Excludes AK and HI.

Farm Computer Usage:  
By State and United States, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 (cont.)

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	:	Farms									
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State	:	Using Computers				:	With				
	:	for Farm Business				:	Internet Access				
-----											
	:	1997	:	1999	:	2001	:	2003	:	2005	
-----											
	:	Percent									
-----											
ID	:	21	34	46	46	47	12	41	62	62	68
OR	:	30	31	43	49	42	22	29	59	72	68
WA	:	35	39	37	39	37	20	50	54	54	66
US 1/	:	20	24	29	30	31	13	29	43	48	51
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1/ Excludes AK and HI.

Number of Farms: by State and United States, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004 1/

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State :	1997	:	1999	:	2001	:	2003	:	2004
-----									
	:	Number							
	:								
ID	:	24,500	24,500	24,500	25,000	25,000			
OR	:	39,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000			
WA	:	39,000	38,000	36,500	35,500	35,000			
US 2/	:	2,184,450	2,181,200	2,142,530	2,120,750	2,107,350			
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1/ 2005 number of farms not available until January 2006.

2/ Excludes AK and HI.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to  
[http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/farm\\_computer.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/farm_computer.pdf)

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